

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

November 2012



What's New?

New this month (and this year), is more volunteer training and get-togethers! This year we have tried to offer many more training opportunities and volunteer socials to keep everyone involved and interested. On Wed., Nov. 7, we had a great refresher on Refuge hunting and safety regulations from Refuge Law Enforcement officers Greg Mullin and Lisa Kennedy. Also part of the program was a presentation by SCA intern, Bethanie Rogers, on her work here at Bear River over the past 3 months, and a chat with Ranger Jason about his "Big Year on a Budget." And after lunch, the volunteers were given a great birding tour of the Refuge by biologist, Howard Browers.



Thumbs-Up!



Here is a big **Thank You** to our very special Environmental Education volunteers for all their great help teaching students, scouts and visitors this Spring, Summer and Fall! We could NOT do it without you...and nor would we want to! GREAT JOB to our valued teaching volunteers: Dorothy Egan, Les Talbot, DeAnn Lester, June Bywater, and Rebecca Browers! And thanks to ALL our front desk volunteers for helping out and filling in while Katie, Jason and Kathi were so busy with teaching season!

Another special **Thumbs-up** and "We'll Miss You" to our amazing SCA intern, Bethanie Rogers. It has been a joy to work with Bethanie and watch her teach thousands of 4th graders about Utah natural resources. The kids especially loved to hear her outstanding bird calls and enjoyed her bubbly, southern personality!

Refuge Roundup

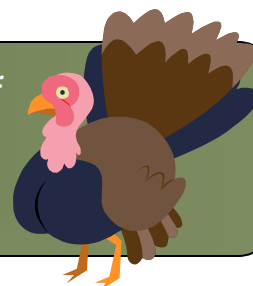
Water and hunting update: As of Monday, November 5, the report from management is that water levels on the Refuge are all at Fall targets. Hip-hip-hooray! And with the rain and higher water levels, more and more waterfowl continue to arrive. Refuge biologist, Howard Brower's, latest count had nearly 5,000 Tundra swans, 30,000 Northern pintails, and around 15,000 each of American wigeon and Green-winged teal. And, there have also been some sightings of more rare visitors to the Refuge such as a Horned grebe and a Surf Scoter!



Also – with swans arriving in larger numbers – the swan hunt has ramped up and swans are being brought to the Wildlife Education Center to be checked. If a hunter arrives for a swan check, please contact any one of the many staff that can check swans, including Howard, Katie, Kathi, Jason, Mindy and Bethanie. And as always, if you get any hunting or management questions you cannot or are uncomfortable answering, please feel free to forward them to Management.

A couple of turkey riddles for the holiday season (answers on bottom of page 2):

1. Why did the turkey sit on the tomahawk?
2. What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter?



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities



❖ Saturdays in November: **Free Fall Films continue!**

Just two more showings in our FREE Fall Films series! The next two Saturdays in November, at 1pm, we will be showing a family-friendly movie about nature, wildlife and the great outdoors. This final two films are: Nov. 17 – Life in the Undergrowth, and Nov. 24 – My Life as a Turkey!

❖ November 23 & 24: **Turkey Days Open House**

Thanksgiving is right around the corner. And even though the Refuge will be closed on Thanksgiving . . . it will be OPEN for our Turkey Days Open House on Friday and Saturday, November 23 & 24th. There will be turkey information, turkey crafts, and at 1pm both days, a free showing of “My Life as a Turkey” in the Auditorium. GOBBLE GOBBLE!

❖ December 27: **CBC4Kids! (Christmas Bird Count for Kids)**

The Refuge will be hosting its 3rd annual CBC4Kids or Christmas Bird Count for kids. This fun, citizen science event is modeled after Audubon’s adult Christmas Bird Counts that take place



nationally on the weeks between the holidays. To get more youth involved, we will again be asking for youth volunteers (and their families) to help us count on Thursday, Dec. 27th, from 9 – Noon, and then submitting all our data to the Refuge and eBird.

❖ Every 2nd Saturday in 2013: **Owl Day, Eagle Day, Swan Day...oh MY!**

As the holidays are nearing, it is already time to start thinking about our events in 2013! We will again be having four big events on the second Saturday of each month, January through April: Owl Day, Eagle Day, Swan Day and Sense of Wonder Day! We can surely use a lot of volunteer help on each of these days, so if you are able to check your calendar and sign-up to help now...we’d greatly appreciate it.

Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- **Saturdays in Nov.: Free Fall Films**
- **Nov. 22: Thanksgiving** (we’re closed)
- **Nov. 23 & 24: Turkey Days** (we’re OPEN)
- **Dec. 24 & 25: Christmas** (we’re closed)
- **Dec. 27: CBC4Kids!**
- **Dec. 31 & Jan. 1: HAPPY NEW YEAR** (we’re closed)
- **Jan. 23: Volunteer Recognition Banquet!**



Avocet Corner Bookstore: Shop at Home again!



The bookstore is again participating in the Box Elder county Shop At Home program...so dollars spent shopping here during the holidays count toward filling up your Shop At Home card! You can get your cards to fill up to \$250 at the bookstore, too, so start your holiday shopping at home now!

The program runs Nov. 2 thru Dec. 24.

And don’t forget, the store is also offering 10% on all Fall Free Films related items through the end of November!

Happy Holidays!

